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THE GULL
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AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Birds of Brazil

(Continued from last month)

The "Bem-te-vi" has the long, flat bill of the Flycatchers, a short tail and a pronounced crest on so large a head that it has somewhat the appearance of a miniature Kingfisher. In color it is reddish brown with a white throat and sulphur-yellow underparts. The head has two white stripes, two dark stripes and one yellow median stripe. The flycatching habit, while observed, is not so marked as in some of the other species, but it is an insatiable devourer of the winged ants when they come forth in clouds in the (Southern) spring; and ants are the curse of Brazil.

Quite different in behavior from the confiding Tico-tico or the vociferous "Bem-te-vi" is the Corruira, the Southern Wren that corresponds to our House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*. In habits it is more like the Mexican Canyon Wrens as I have known them around habitations. When I sit on the porch the little chap slips along as quietly as a mouse, picks up tiny bugs and flies and then slips through the open door into the room to help in the war between man and insect. The Corruira is very shy and at the slightest movement it is off. Soon after my arrival here a fine ringing song drew me from place to place until I finally caught the little *Troglodyte* in the act. He will sit on the housetop and give us a beautiful song all out of proportion to his diminutive size. In color he is a warm brown, barred as to short wings and perky tail and showing light tan underparts. The conspicuous white eye rings make his bright eyes look even larger than they actually are.

But the brightest jewels in our collection around the house are the "Canarios," whose heavy, conical bills, plump bodies and short, square or slightly emarginate tails betray their Fringillidae relationship. They are of a pure golden yellow, with only a little dark on primaries and tail, while their crowns are of brightest orange, and the lady is only slightly less brilliant than her spouse. They come to the porch for bird seed and crumbs and have reached the point where they scold vigorously if the food is not forthcoming. A certain railing post is their table but they hop all around the floor among us as well.

A Tico-tico has also learned of the feast and comes occasionally, but if the Canarios see him, there is a scrap immediately, with many small swear words and whirling in air of the aggressor, until the Tico-tico resigns himself to picking up the crumbs that have fallen to the floor from the bird-of-gold's table. The Canarios repay their benefactors by giving frequently their short, pleasant and typically Finch song.

These few birds are most abundant and easily recognized, and of course there are innumerable others, but the latter I will have to leave for another time. The scientific names are from Von Ihring's excellent "Livrinjo das Aves."
Ynes Mexia, January 21, 1930.

Male Wood Duck Winters in Marin County

Referring to my article in the October, 1929, issue of "The Gull," I would like to record my further observations of this bird.

After my visit of September 29th, no more visits were made to the lake until December 29th, as I did not believe that Wood Ducks would remain long on a lake that is exposed to great numbers of horseback riders and noisy Sunday hikers. But on this date I was passing along the lake again and stopped to examine a mixed raft of Baldpates, Ring-necked Ducks and Coots; the Mallards also were present, which reminded me of my previous experience. A thorough search among the ducks produced a single male adult Wood Duck.

Another visit was made to the lake on January 11, 1930. The Wood Duck was still present and seemed to have alienated the affections of one of the female Mallards. He would drive the male Mallards away, then swim away with his stolen mate. If the Mallards approached again the same performance would be repeated. On subsequent visits the same actions were noted, and it appeared as if the pair had mated, but up to June 15th there was no evidence that this was the case. On this date the Wood Duck was found in his eclipse plumage, still in the company of the Mallards, but more as a friend of the family than as a trouble maker.—Chas. A. Bryant, San Francisco, California, June 20, 1930.

Our State Bird

Now that the California Valley Quail, *Lophortyx californica*, has been selected to be the State bird of California by a large majority of the thousands of votes cast for that purpose, I believe the readers of "The Gull" will be interested to know what is being done to rehabilitate within the State that most beautiful and gamest of our native game birds, which is of a species found nowhere else in the world.

In addition to a state law which prohibits the trapping or sale of quail, which provides for a daily bag limit of fifteen and a weekly bag limit of thirty, except in District 1½, and provides that the month of December only shall be open season for quail shooting, efforts are being made to establish numerous small inviolable quail sanctuaries. This is being done through the medium of 550 volunteer deputies of the Division of Fish and Game and the co-operation of the members of various Fish and Game Protective Associations and Clubs which are sponsoring the appointments of these deputies.

It is believed that by encouraging the land owners to set aside voluntarily a part of their lands as quail sanctuaries and by assisting them in properly posting these sanctuaries against hunting, coupled with the efforts to be made by the Division of Fish and Game in establishing state quail refuges where quail may be propagated and distributed into the game fields of the state, within the next few years every acre of the millions of acres of suitable quail habitat in the state may be satisfactorily restocked with the California Valley Quail, from the nucleus of wild quail already in the game fields of the state.

Efforts being made to introduce exotic species of game birds into the state are receiving favorable support and commendation. As a matter of state and local pride, however, every effort should be made to re-establish within the state our own native game birds, the Valley and Mountain Quail.

The efforts being made to introduce exotic species of game birds are as yet an experiment. We do not know and cannot hope to know without a trial how new environment will affect these birds or what the result will be. But we do know that our native Valley Quail is a bird of beauty and one of the gamest birds in the world. We also know that no other species of game bird responds more quickly to protection than that little "plumed knight of the chaparral"—the California Valley Quail.—Walter R. Welch, Fish and Game Commission, June 21, 1930.

Audubon Notes

August Meeting will be held Thursday, the 14th, at 8 P. M., room 19, 2nd floor, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. E. R. Zion. Subject: "Fifty Years' Observation of Bird Life in California, by a Hunter and Fisherman."

August Field Trip will be taken Sunday, the 17th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County. Purchase round-trip tickets to Manzanita, 48c, and take 8:45 A. M. Sausalito Ferry. Bring luncheon and filled canteens. Leader, Chas. A. Bryant.

July Meeting. The 162nd regular meeting was held July 10th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty-nine members and guests present. First Vice-President Herman de Fremery presiding.

Field observations were reported as follows:

Leslie Hawkins: June 17th, Moss Landing, Willet, Marbled Godwit, 15 Pectoral Sandpipers, 30 Red-breasted Mergansers, Caspian, Least and Forster Terns, large flock of Bonaparte Gulls.

Mr. Lockerbie: July 4th, 5th and 6th, San Francisco Beach, 27 Murres, 4 Western Gulls, 1 Farallon Cormorant, 5 Brandt Cormorants, 12 Shearwaters, 3 White-winged and 3 Surf Scoters, 1 Brown Pelican, 2 Cassin Auklets, 1 Glaucous-winged Gull, all dead birds.

July 5th, San Francisco Beach, 197 Heermann Gulls in one flock; one Hudsonian Curlew, 131 Surf Scoters.

Mr. Carl Smith: July 6th, Alpine Creek Road, Say Phoebe; Searsville Lake, Florida Gallinule.

Mrs. Stephens: July 4th, Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, California Murre.

Through the courtesy of the Division of Fish and Game, three reels of motion pictures were shown, exhibiting the nesting and young of Long-billed Curlew, Black-necked Stilts, Avocets and other birds of the Los Baños region. The California Academy of Sciences kindly loaned the lantern and the services of Mr. Smith for the showing of the pictures.

Directors' Meeting: A motion was made and passed raising the subscription price of "The Gull" to $1.00 a year to take effect January, 1931.

The following new members were elected:

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Millard, San Francisco; Master George Entriken, Oakland.

Mr. John H. Skinner, Alameda, died June 12th.

Mrs. A. L. Futhey, San Francisco, died June 26th.

Research Projects: The supervision of our research projects has been divided between three co-operating members in the following way:

Life Zones and Habitats, Bird Population Fluctuations, Anna and Allen Hummers, in charge of Miss Cornelia C. Pringle, 1816 Vallejo Street, San Francisco.

Research Photography, Egret Heron, White Pelican and White-tailed Kite, in charge of Mr. Chas. A. Bryant, 150 Franklin Street, San Francisco.

Barn Owl, Cliff Swallow, Road-runner, and Marsh Wren, in charge of Mr. C. W. Lockerbie, 2409 Clay Street, San Francisco.

Co-operating Audubonites are requested to send in their observations to the members respectively in charge of the various projects and to consult freely with them at the monthly meetings in regard to the exact planning and the further development of the projects in which they are interested.

Editor's Note: Members making reports of observations at monthly meetings are requested to hand them, in writing, to the Recording Secretary after the meeting.

July Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 13th, to Golden Gate Park with Mrs. A. B. Stephens as leader.

The party entered the park at Forty-first Avenue on the south side of the park and followed the footpaths that lead around the entire series of the Chain of Lakes, then visited Spreckels and Lloyd Lakes, passing through the stadium and continuing on to Mirror Lake, where luncheon was eaten. After luncheon, Stow Lake and the Japanese Tea Gardens were visited; then the party decided to finish the day with a visit to the Cliff House and Land's End.

The weather was ideal. The list of birds was satisfactory considering the unfavorable conditions that have been created by removal of the covering vegetation around the lakes and the low state of the water in them.

Only six summer visitants were noted. Mallards in fair numbers and a pair of Ruddies represented the duck family. A pair of Coots had eggs in a nest, while nearly full-grown Coots were still being looked after by the other parent.

On July 4th a Murre was reported on the Middle Lake; on our trip a dead Murre was found in the North Lake.

A pair of Yellow Warblers were still feeding young in a nest. A Downy Woodpecker was working on a dead willow stump, while above him perched a Bewick Wren as an interested spectator. In a near-by thicket two Wren-tits were singing. They came out to investigate when a sound was made to attract their attention.

While at Lloyd Lake one member of the party drew attention to what proved to be six Turkey Vultures circling overhead, a most unusual situation for this species.

On the Seal Rocks were great numbers of Brown Pelicans, mostly juveniles, Heermann Gulls and Cormorants. Many of the Cormorants appeared to be bringing nesting material and placing it around nests already built.

Birds noted in Golden Gate Park were: Pied-billed Grebe; Mallard and Ruddy Ducks; Turkey Vulture; California Quail; Coot; California Gull; Mourning Dove; Allen Hummingbird; Kingfisher; Downy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Western Flycatcher; Chickadee; Bush-tit; Wren-tit; Bewick Wren; Robin; Russet-backed Thrush; Yellow and Pileolated Warblers; Brewer Blackbird; House Sparrow; Purple Finch; Linnet; Pine Siskin; Green-backed Goldfinch; Spotted Towhee; Junco; Nuttall and Song Sparrows.

Introduced species at Stow Lake were: White Pelican; Whistling Swan; Canada, Hutchins, Cackling, White-fronted and Snow Geese. The usual exotics were present.

At the Cliff House and Land's End: Brown Pelican; Farallon and Brandt Cormorants; Surf Scoters; Western and Heermann Gulls; Willow Goldfinch. Thirty-eight native wild species.

Members present: Mr. and Mrs. Lockerbie; Mr. and Mrs. Parry; Mr. and Mrs. Otis H. Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas; Mrs. Persons; Misses Berg, Cohen, Kautz, Rinehart; Messrs. Bremer, Bryant, Carl Smith.

Guests: Misses Browning, Trippe. Eighteen members and two guests. Chas. A. Bryant, historian.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

For the Study and Protection of Birds

President ..... Brighton C. Cain ..... 221 Thayer Bldg., Oakland
Recording Secretary ..... Mrs. Bessie W. Kibbe ..... Room 510, Russ Bldg., San Francisco
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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.
Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

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Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.